

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)



After major fires, portions of the watersheds in the South Platte River Basin have healed nicely from grass seeding and contour tree felling completed with Emergency Watershed Protection funding.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service approved EWP funds for financial and technical assistance for five projects in Colorado in 2004.

- ✓ Deadwood Gulch flood: \$23,900
- ✓ Overland Fire: \$56,114
- ✓ Picnic Rock Wildfire: \$137,680
- ✓ McGruder Wildfire: \$18,000
- ✓ Turkey Rock Subdivision flood: \$135,000

The Program

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program helps to protect lives and property threatened by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires.

The Partnership

EWP provides funding to project sponsors for such work as cleaning debris, installing straw wattles, weed control, clogged waterways, contour tree felling, straw mulching, restoring vegetation, and stabilizing river banks.

The Assistance

NRCS provides up to 75 percent of the funds needed to restore the natural function of a watershed. The community or local sponsor of the work pays the remaining 25 percent, which can be provided by cash or in-kind service.

EWP Flood Plain Easement Program

This program allows NRCS to purchase easements on agricultural land that is subject to repeated flooding, or on land where flooding is expected to recur, such as lowlands that are primarily cropland, grazing land, hayland, or forestland adjacent to a river, lake, or watercourse.

2002-04 Colorado EWP Activity	County	Government Cost	Final
Deadwood Gulch	Dolores	23,901	Yes
Overland Fire	Boulder	56,114	Yes
Picnic Rock Fire	Larimer	137,680	Yes
Turkey Rock Flood	Teller	135,000	Yes
McGruder Fire	Delta	18,000	Yes
TOTAL		\$370,695	

2002-2004 Colorado Fire Season			
Area of Fire	Counties Impacted	Government Cost	Final
Coal Seam	Garfield	446,199	Yes
Missionary Ridge	La Plata	2,183,904	Yes
Hayman	Douglas/Jefferson/ Park/Teller	5,627,369	Yes
Million	Rio Grande	214,046	Yes
Snaking	Park	72,883	Yes
Schoonover	Douglas	74,951	Yes
Iron Mountain	Fremont	96,298	Yes
Dierich	Mesa	38,013	Yes
Burn Canyon	San Miquel	232,393	Yes
Panorama	Garfield	108,298	Yes
Cherry Creek	La Plata	59,484	Yes
TOTAL		\$ 9,153,838	